THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Rift between West Bengal and the Central Government

4680. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a rift has developed in the talks between the Centre and the State Government of West Bengal over the exchange of enclaves of India and Bangladesh along the border of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement between U.S.A. and Russia for cut in Arms

4681. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN-DRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently sign ed US—Russian agreements on huge cuts in strategic arms;

(b) if so, the details of the strategic and nuclear arms cuts agreed upon between the two; and

(c) what is the change in Government's perception about the prospects of world peace and arms-race?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha. (See below).

(c) Government believes that 6uch an agreement is an important and encouraging step. But even after the envisaged reduction, both sides would continue to retain huge nuielear of larsenals. The agreement does not of course cover the arsenals of other nuclear wapons powers. Government believes that unilateral or bilaterally negotiated arms reduction agreements are not a substitute for multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations which must be linked to the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time bound framework.

Statement

During the Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States, a memorandum of agreement was signed with the US President George Bush on June 17, 1992. The salient features of the agreement are:

Upon entry into force of the START Treaty following the completion of the ratification process in the USA and Russian Federation. within a 7 year period, the United States of America and the Russian Federation will reduce their strategic forces to no more than:

(I) overall number of warheads for each between 3800 and 4250;

(III) 650 heavy ICBM warheads; and

(III) 650 heavy ICBM warheads; and

(IV) 2160 SLBM warheads.

By the Year 2003 (Or by the end of the year 2000 if the United Stated